

Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Alliance Alert

Cover Charge, Dancing, and Live Entertainment—Will Our Restaurants Soon Morph to Bars and Nightclubs?

As some of you know, Don Juan, Don Jaime, and Haydee's have petitioned the ABC Board to terminate their Voluntary Agreements with the MPNA. Should they succeed, these establishments have included requests for live entertainment, dancing, and cover charge from 6:00 pm to 2:30-3:00 am every night of the week. A further challenge in this process is the current ABC Board. The ABC Board has made arbitrary decisions that the MPNA contends are completely outside regulations, therefore significantly decreasing our faith that the Board will rule fairly.

This is a wake-up call for all of us.

This issue is not one of opposition to live music or entertainment per se. It is an issue of quality of life in our neighborhood. Why?

- MPNA believes that residents have not been properly informed of what is really at stake;
- MPNA believes that a termination of the current Voluntary Agreements, or its modification in the sense that these establishment and their legal counsel are currently pushing for, will bring about increased night traffic into the neighborhood, and with increased night traffic, more noise, trash, parking and worse, safety problems for our residents;
- MPNA believes that a termination of the Voluntary Agreements will in practice mean that establishments that are now restaurants will morph into bars, taverns or nightclubs, increasing night alcohol consumption in our vicinity;
- MPNA believes that this change will negatively impact the character of our neighborhood -- now primarily a residential one and one that thrives with young families and young children.

MPNA cannot fight this fight alone—nor do we have enough funds to fight this. We need your help and financial support. After all, this is our neighborhood and any change will impact us all.

There are many ways in which you can help:

- Please contribute financially to our legal fund. We need to hire an Attorney, and legal fees are already quoted in upwards to \$15,000.00. You can do this online: <http://www.mtpalliance.org/membership/membership.htm>
- Please provide legal support. The MPNA would greatly benefit from your legal expertise. Email us mpna@mtpleasantdc.org if you can volunteer your time and skills.
- You can protest on your own (you need a minimum of 5 people), by petitioning the ABC Board directly before November 26. Contact us for guidance.

Your contribution is essential in helping us maintain the character of our neighborhood and to ensure that the peace and safety of our residents is not affected by an irresponsible change.

MPNA will keep you posted on where your contributions are going.

Thank you.

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at mpna@mtpleasantdc.org